

# The Connection

*We are called to share Jesus in creative and intentional ways, through:  
Connecting with God and His Church, Growing in Faith and Love,  
and Serving Our Community and World.*

A monthly newsletter of Turner Christian Church

April 2022

Volume 17; Issue 4

*Dear Church, From Pastor Matt*

**Last Sunday was really fun!**

. . .for a couple of reasons. First of all, it was the first Sunday with all of the Sanctuary chairs out. It was a lot of work unstacking the chairs and figuring out how to get the most spacing we could out of them, but it was absolutely worth it! It was also necessary: last Sunday (March 20th) was the most people we've had in the Sunday Service since a month *before* COVID started!

The other reason yesterday was fun was because it became really apparent to me how many new faces we've gained over the past two years—it was apparent because I hardly recognized half of the faces I saw! (The bottom halves, that is!) Yesterday was a great reminder to me of how faithful God has been to see us through the last two years, and how faithful this church has been in trusting him during that time.

We have been through a lot of strange, frustrating, challenging, uncomfortable, and flat-out weird moments since 2020. Remember when the church services were prerecorded—from my dining room? Or when we didn't sing for ten months? Or when we gave the sermons from the baptistry? You all were so patient and faithful through all of that, and God was so good through everything. We never had to worry about funding—in fact, we were able to expand our staff instead! You never rioted, no matter how hard it got to deal with the restrictions. God provided for us, he worked through us, he connected us with new faces—he proved himself just as faithful in the hard times as in the easy ones.

And now we get to see things begin to open up again: and what better time than just before Easter! This month we get to celebrate the ultimate renewal, the ultimate reopening, the ultimate proof of the faithfulness of God! With bare faces, a full sanctuary, and hearts full of joy! Here's a run-down of what we have planned:

• **Maundy Thursday (April 14th, 7pm)**

This service reenacts the story of the Last Supper, including foot-washing (we wash hands), and communion.

• **Good Friday (April 15th, 7pm)**

This service reenacts the trial, crucifixion and burial of Jesus through reading of scripture, singing of hymns, and interactions with a cross representing Jesus.

• **Easter Sunday (April 17th)**

o **Sunrise Service (6:30am)**

In this service we reenact the discovery of the empty tomb and rejoice in the news of the resurrection of Jesus!

o **Easter Brunch (9am)**

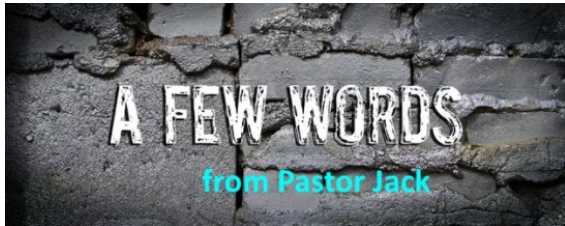
This will be our first potluck in two years! Bring a dish and join in fellowship time with others before the Easter service!

o **Main Service (10:30-noon—available online)**

In this service we join together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus as a congregation. Notice the service runs a bit longer than normal—make your lunch plans accordingly!

I am really excited to celebrate Holy Week with you this year, and to thank God for his faithfulness to us. See you then!

Stay Healthy and stay hopeful!



Sitting down to write this article has actually caused me to do something helpful today. April is coming and that means Easter season is upon us. As I sit here, I have a card listing the services and events happening around Easter weekend. Now, if you are anything like me, being

prepared for times like Easter isn't exactly your strong suit. Like I mentioned, however, writing this article has caused me to do something helpful; I was able to slow down and think about the fact that Easter is upon us.

I discussed an article or two ago what it means to be prepared. As much as I try to be prepared, sometimes... well, often times things slip through the cracks. Easter every year seems like a time that sneaks up on me. I acknowledge it when it comes and celebrate Jesus' resurrection just as much as the next person, but I'm always surprised by just how fast it comes. While I am able to praise Jesus and celebrate his resurrection, thinking about it ahead of time allows me to appreciate the season and all that happens. When I fail to think of Easter season ahead of time it all just flashes by.

Last year was my first full Easter season as a pastor. Boy did it pass by quickly. I failed to take in some of the things that were offered. I remember some highlights, but I wasn't fully present for the season. So, as I am slowing down to really be present in this season, I'd encourage you to do the same. I know that is much easier said than done. I've been reading a book recently that emphasizes the idea of "being" and not just "doing". I would encourage you to "be" in this Easter season. Slow down and allow God to move in and through you. If it is a service that calls for joyous celebration, do just that. If it is a service that calls for somber remembrance of Jesus' act, allow yourself to be in that. It doesn't require anything special, just allow yourself to feel the feelings. Acknowledge how you feel. And maybe even discuss with someone else those feelings. Make the decision to be fully present where you are at with your savior, Jesus Christ.



**Friday, April 8, 2022 at 6:30 pm**

Gather with us for a relaxed evening of focused prayer. This will be a casual gathering where we will pray together over our community, our church, and those who don't know Jesus. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**TCC Vacation Bible School** has been scheduled for the mornings of July 26-30 (Tues—Sat).

**Seniorfest! - May 19, 2022**

Special guest speaker, LeRoy Lawson will be exploring the theme, "What's Old Age Good For?" Seniorfest is one great day of celebrating, worship, workshops and encouragement. There is no age limit. All are welcome!

**Northwest Christian Convention**

**June 21—26**

More information and convention schedule available at [NWChristianNetwork.com](http://NWChristianNetwork.com)

# *I've been thinking... About My Birthday!*

It's one of the best days of the year . . . wait, no, it is THE BEST day of the year.

I love my birthday. People that I love text and call me and tell me they love me. I eat as many sweets as I desire, and I do many of my favorite things. It's a day filled with hugs and happiness, and that is all really, really lovely, but it's not my primary reason for loving my birthday.

I love my birthday because it's a day of community. I love my birthday because people that I think are wonderful gather together with other people I think are wonderful. I love my birthday because I get to watch people connect, and laugh and share. And although this year I'm keeping it casual, I often incorporate games for my friends and family that get them giggling and behaving in silly ways. It's easy to make friends when you're laughing, and I love it when someone leaves one of my parties with some great memories and a few new numbers in their phone.

Community is one of God's greatest gifts to us. He designed us in such a way to desire and seek out companionship. He created us as a community in His son, a whole church coming together with all of its gifts and talents to make up one "body." And that one body is made up of people who are administrators and teachers, piano players and tech people, evangelists and prayer-warriors. Those same people are also great joke-tellers or good listeners, bakers or volleyball players, scrabble aficionados or just good company. Sometimes we are so focused on the skills someone brings to a congregation that we miss seeing the whole person, we miss those community moments of sharing, and simple joys.

A birthday party is a good way to be reminded of those simple joys.



**I will be celebrating my 31st Birthday at Turner Lake, April 9th, 2 pm-whenever**  
**All are welcome!** Bring picnic blankets or chairs, and games if you want. No special activities scheduled-just a time of gathering and community. Bring your jokes, your listening skills, the joy of your presence or the honesty of how you are that day. I look forward to seeing you!

—Rachel



**Saturday, April 16th at 10:00 am**

Please continue to bring candy and plastic eggs for the egg hunt and deposit them in the boxes in the foyer or in the church office by April 13th! We're planning on a big turnout!

There are still opportunities to help by filling the eggs with candy on April 14th at 9:00 am, set-up and hiding eggs in the fields on April 16th at 9:00 am, and being greeters and overseeing an age group as they hunt eggs. Please contact Pastor Rachel if you are interested in helping!

## EASTER BRUNCH **Potluck**

**Easter Sunday • 9:00-10:00 am**

Everyone is invited!

It's a great way to celebrate Easter as a family in a way we haven't been able to for quite a while!

Some suggestions for food items you can bring:

Fruit, Cheese Plate, Salads, Breads  
Pastries, Cakes, Pies and Other Desserts  
Egg Casseroles, Quiches, Ham, Etc.

*Tableware and drinks will be provided*

## With *Sympathy*

Rose "Mickey" Richards passed away and went home to the Lord on February 25, 2022.

### New Members

Jerry and Karen Campbell transferred their membership to Turner Christian Church on March 13th. They recently moved from Culver, OR and are part of the TRH community.

John Stroup transferred his membership to Turner Christian Church on March 20th. John is married to Lucy and they live in Stayton.

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*In the past we have listed birthdays and anniversaries in the monthly newsletter. Because this digital newsletter is available to the public, we will not be posting private information like birthdays and anniversaries in this version of the newsletter*

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Roger Waterman, a representative of the Gideons spoke at TCC on March 20th, sharing the story of their wonderful ministry of distributing the Scriptures throughout the world. The Gideons thank the congregation for an offering of \$412.00 to be used to purchase more Bibles to distribute!

### New Sunday Morning Classes!

#### ***Discipleship 101***

Led by Pastor Jack in the Library  
Discipleship is an integral part of the church. Believers are called to be in community with each other. But what does that look like? What is discipleship? How do we disciple? Who do we disciple? These will all be questions we answer in Discipleship 101.

#### ***The Gospel of Mark***

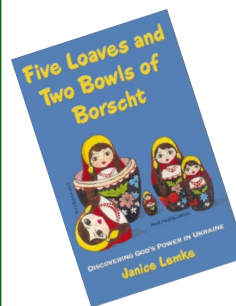
Led by Dave Moore in the Fellowship Hall  
The Gospel according to Mark is the shortest of the Gospel stories. Don't assume there isn't much to glean from this book, however. Join Elder David Moore as he leads you through the Gospel of Mark!

#### ***Encounter***

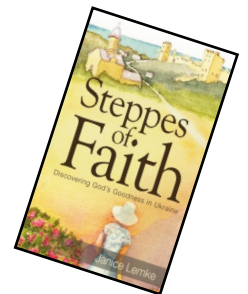
Led by Pastor Rachel in Classroom # 1 (Bird Room)  
So often we come to the Bible and forget that it's the Living Word. In this class we will practice different approaches to prayer and reading the Bible that help us encounter our Creator, intimately and corporately.

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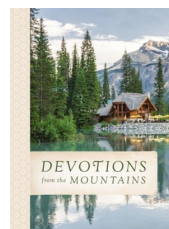
### Now Available in the Church Library!



**Author**  
Janice Lemke served in Ukraine with her husband, Cory, from 1995 - 2010.



***Five Loaves and Two Bowls of Borscht*** highlights their first four years as missionaries in Ukraine. The sequel, ***Steppes of Faith***, weaves into their continued journey stories of people they came to love and respect.



Karen and Jerry Campbell have donated a book to the church library that is available for check out. ***Devotions from the Mountains*** is a collection of 90 daily reminders with Scriptures, prayers and beautiful photography reminding you of the peace and strength that is found in God-the Creator of heaven and earth. This book was written by Karen and Jerry's niece, Lisa Ham. A tribute to Lisa, who passed away December 5, 2021, is enclosed in the book.

# April 2022

Green—Online Meetings

Black—Meeting in Building

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Women's Conference at Oregon Christian Camp & Event Center	<b>2</b> Missions Team Mtg—9 am Ladies Movie & Prayer Night 6:30 pm
<b>3</b> 9:00 Sunday Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm Kid's Club 6:00-7:30 pm Parents' Group 6:00-7:30 pm	<b>4</b> Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am	<b>5</b> Small Group 10:00 am—Gary Tiffin Drama Team 6:30 pm	<b>6</b> Ladies Bible Study—6pm Adult Sermon-Based Study-6pm	<b>7</b> Music & AV Teams—9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>8</b> Prayer Gathering 6:30 pm	<b>9</b> Rachel White's Birthday Party! (Turner Lake) 2:00 pm
<b>10</b> 9:00 Sunday Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online Board Mtg 4:30 pm Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm Parents' Group 6:00-7:30 pm	<b>11</b> Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am	<b>12</b> Small Group 10:00 am—Gary Tiffin Drama Team 6:30 pm	<b>13</b> Ladies Bible Study—6pm Adult Sermon-Based Study-6pm	<b>14</b> Music & AV Teams—9:30 am Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00 pm	<b>15</b> Good Friday Service - 7:00 pm	<b>16</b>  10:00 am
<b>17</b> 9:00 Potluck Brunch 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online 	<b>18</b> Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am Community Garden Mtg 3:00 pm Y.I.T. Mtg—3:30 pm	<b>19</b> Small Group 10:00 am—Gary Tiffin Drama Team 6:30 pm	<b>20</b> Ladies Bible Study—6pm Adult Sermon-Based Study-6pm	<b>21</b> Music & AV Teams—9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 Sunday Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm Parents' Group 6:00-7:30 pm	<b>25</b> Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am	<b>26</b> Small Group 10:00 am—Gary Tiffin Camelides 4-H 6:00 pm Drama Team 6:30 pm	<b>27</b> Ladies Bible Study—6pm Adult Sermon-Based Study-6pm	<b>28</b> Music & AV Teams—9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

*First*  
FRIDAYS

**Saturday, April 2nd  
Ladies Movie &  
Prayer Night!  
6:30 pm**

**We Invite All Ladies to Join Us for Fun, Fellowship and Prayer!**

*Due to the Women's Retreat, First Fridays is being moved to the First Saturday!*

We will watch **"The Jesus Music"** and then we will share in a time of fellowship and prayer. *"With stirring songs of faith, love and hope, Jesus music rises from 1960's American counterculture movement to become a worldwide phenomenon.*

Bring a friend and a snack to share!



Northwest Christian Network is excited to offer a

## Spring Women's Retreat April 1-2, 2022

At the Oregon Christian Camp & Event Center in Turner  
*More information and schedule available at NWChristianNetwork.com*



At Turner Christian Church

**Thursday**  
**April 14th**

7:00 pm  
Maundy Thursday  
Service

**Friday**  
**April 15th**

7:00 pm  
Good Friday  
Service

**Saturday**  
**April 16th**

10:00 am  
Easter Egg Hunt

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### **Easter Sunday April 17, 2021**

6:30 am — Easter Sunrise Service

9:00-10:00 am — Potluck Brunch

10:30 am — *Worship (Nursery and Junior Worship available)*

**Office Hours:**

Monday—Thursday: 8:00am—2:00pm  
Friday: 8:00am—11:00 am

**Call us:**

503-743-2119\_

**Look us up at:**

[www.TurnerChristianChurch.com](http://www.TurnerChristianChurch.com)  
Facebook:/turnerchristian/OR  
[Faithlife.com/turnercc](https://Faithlife.com/turnercc)

**Staff**

atthew Holmes.....Senior Minister—[matt@turnerchristianchurch.com](mailto:matt@turnerchristianchurch.com)  
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Jerry Sygney.....Office Administrator—[office@turnerchristianchurch.com](mailto:office@turnerchristianchurch.com)

**Sunday Schedule**

Adult Bible Classes at 9:00 am  
Worship Service at 10:30 am  
Online Worship at 10:30 am